

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - July 20, 2000, 9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

Participants:

Julie Campbell, USFWS
Anne Dailey, EPA
Dan Winstanley, CH2M Hill
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Bob Foley, USFWS
Mary Jane Nearman, EPA

Merril Coomes, City of Coeur d'Alene
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Tom Dahl, Dahl Associates
Kathy Johnson, IDEQ
John Roland, Ecology
Don Heinle, CH2M Hill

Regulatory/Trustee Review of prelim. draft EcoRA:

- Preliminary Draft EcoRA is on target to be mailed tomorrow (7/21/00) to the regulatory/trustee stakeholders for a quick big picture review
- The prelim draft will be presented in 4 volumes (text, figures, tables, & appendices)
- Comments will be due electronically to Harry Ohlendorf & Anne Dailey by COB 7/28

Soil Amendment Treatability Study:

- (please refer to the notes from the EcoRA call on 7/6/00 for background discussion and issues pertaining to the soil amendments and waterfowl feeding study)
- The general concept from the July 6th teleconference is that it may make sense to conduct a controlled laboratory feeding study (e.g., a bench test) and also conduct a longer-term field-based pilot test of soil amendments.
- The bench-scale laboratory study may be able to utilize soil samples collected from CdA basin sites which have had amendments applied previously as well as lab application of amendments.
- The longer-term field test would potentially consist of field applications of amendments with periodic testing of the soils over several years.
- Further discussion regarding soil amendments was planned for the July 18th FS meeting, however, available time did not allow for discussion of soil amendments
- Dailey reported that she had a conversation with David Mosby, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, who is working in conjunction with EPA Region 7 on soil amendments at the Tri-State Mining District. David Mosby has recently completed a MS thesis and soon will be finalizing a report for Region 7 on the soil amendment study.
- In the Region 7 study, fertilizer-grade liquid phosphoric acid and lime were applied to soils with elevated lead and zinc in a residential area contaminated with smelter emissions. After amendment application, the areas were seeded. The study evaluated changes in bioavailability to humans using the swine model which involves using pigs to measure bioavailability to young children.
- Results from the study indicate a maximum reduction in lead bioavailability of 38%

one and a half years after application of the amendment.

- Limited results on both plants and pigs indicate a similar reduction in plant and pig uptake of lead with the amendment application.

- Kathy Johnson noted that she needs to have some additional conversation with the CDA Basin Commission regarding integration of the BLM funds and work conducted by the Trustees; there may be some issues with integration of the studies

- Kathy was able to contact Frank Frutchev regarding use of some of his treated soils in a waterfowl feeding study; Mr. Frutchev reportedly was interested but needs more definitive information regarding the study

- Don Heinle noted that in the Clark Fork deep plowing was used to reduce arsenic exposure in areas near residences (removing contamination from the surface exposure routes by bringing clean soil from deeper down to the surface)

>>Next steps regarding soil amendments:

- Dailey will share information compiled by Sophie Lagace, Ridolfi, regarding soil amendment treatability studies (file to be sent upon receipt by EPA)

- Kathy Johnson will talk with CDA Basin Commission to further assess their interest in a joint effort to examine soil amendment

- Kathy will also talk with Frank Frutchev and the Upstream Mining group regarding potential testing of samples from

>>There will be a follow-up conversation on Thursday, July 27th at 9 AM immediately following the CDA Basin-wide teleconference. The call-in number is 206-553-4602.

Update of EcoRA schedule:

- The EcoRA review schedule continues to be as follows:

8/31/00	draft EcoRA mailed to EcoRA work group for review document will be distributed on CD-Rom with hard copies provided to specific individuals per their requests; both CD-Rom and hard copy versions will be placed in the repositories
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9/27-28/00	EcoRA work group workshop in CDA regarding draft EcoRA document (to be held at USFS facility in CDA on Kathleen Road)
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10/6/00	Written comments on EcoRA due to EPA
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- In response to an email message on 7/7/00, the following parties have requested paper copies of the draft EcoRA: Frank Frutchev, Dolly Hartman, John Roland (for Ecology), George Brabb, Fred Kirschner, Marti Calabretta (for CAC), and Michelle Nanni (for WA CAC).

>>> If you would like a paper copy and have not notified me, please do ASAP so that we can finalize the EcoRA document duplication arrangements.

EPA CdA Web Site:

- EPA has been working to establish a useful web for the CdA RI/FS
- Web site address is: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>
- Notes from the EcoRA teleconferences and EcoRA documents are posted on the web site which updated on Fridays

ArcExplorer:

- EPA has tasked the contractor to complete the ArcExplorer and anticipates that the application will be ready for distribution by the end of July/early August
- ArcExplorer is a map viewer software distributed free of charge by Environmental Systems Research Institute and it will provide a graphical representation of surface water, groundwater, and soil/surface sediment cadmium, lead and zinc concentrations in the RI/FS project area

Trout Study:

- EPA's Duluth Lab has sent sediment collection equipment to Julie Campbell, USFWS, to collect samples for the trout dietary metals uptake study.
- In response to an inquiry from Dave Mount, EPA Duluth Lab, Julie talked with Chip Corsi, IDFG, and learned that low level infestations whirling disease have been found in brook trout in Big Creek, white fish in CDAR, and cutthroat in St. Joe River; the presence of whirling disease in fish in the CDA basin, however, may preclude use of sediment from CDA in the study.
- EPA Duluth lab is concerned about laboratory contamination from sediments where whirling disease is present. Minnesota DNR is being consulted about this...stay tuned.
- Presence of whirling disease in Clark Fork sediments has precluded use of Clark Fork sediments in the study.

Cross-over between HHRA and EcoRA:

- Tom Dahl noted that when looking at which parameters and values will drive clean-up, the human health and ecorisk components will need to be integrated
- Since there are no numbers for recreational exposure in the human health risk assessment

Interim Bench-marks:

- There was some discussion regarding development of interim benchmarks for basin cleanup given that the cleanup goals may be substantially lower than the contamination concentrations currently present in the basin and it may take many

years to achieve the cleanup goals. The interim benchmarks would measurable parameters that would ideally link with existing data from the Basin and any future monitoring program established. As part of the FS, a smaller work group will work on this issue.

Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on August 3, 2000 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required
- topics of discussion will include:
 - waterfowl feeding study update
 - status of the EcoRA
 - other topics as appropriate